

Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 741

Hi, everyone! Welcome back to PR Junior.

Let's hear a conversation between Alex and Max. Here we go.

Max: Hi, Alex!

Alex: Hey, Max!

Max: What are you going to do this weekend?

Alex: Umm, I haven't decided yet. Why?

Max: Well, can you come to the beach?

Alex: Yeah, sure. Is there anything I should bring with me?

Max: You might want to have a water bottle with you. It will be really hot this weekend.

Alex: Got it! See you then.

Alright, that's it for today. See you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 741

Hello! Welcome back to PR1.

Today you are going to listen to a story about lost island, Mu. Let's begin!

There are many islands in the Pacific Ocean. Do you know that Tahiti and Easter Island? Some people think that these islands were part of a large continent a long time ago. The name of this land was Mu. A great earthquake shook it. Mu sank into the sea. Only small islands were left.

Some people say that human life began on Mu. They also say that people on Mu were wise and clever. They knew things people nowadays don't know. Other people say that the stories of Mu are not true. However, it is fun to think about Mu.

That's all for today! See you next time!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 741

Hello, everyone, and welcome to PR2.

It's been really cold recently, but we've been seeing some plum blossoms in some parts of the city, so hang in tight, spring is almost coming – hooray!

And so today, we will be talking about tea culture in the United Kingdom. Have any of you noticed that there are primarily two ways to express “tea” in the world? For example, in Japanese, it's *o-cha*, right? And Indians call it *chai*, and the Chinese call it *cha*. On the other hand, the French call it *le thé*, and in English, as most of you may know, it's *tea*.

Today, we'll be exploring the unique tea culture that the British have, and it's just going to be a brief introduction to it, because it's just so profound!

Okay, so, for a formal tea, as in a tea party or a proper afternoon tea, tea sets made of fine bone china, porcelain, or silver are used. The set includes a teapot, cups and saucers, a creamer for holding milk, and a sugar bowl, all carried on a tray. All the pieces of a proper English tea set will likely have a matching pattern.

According to a British person I know, some people even use teapot covers, which act as insulators – so it's like jackets on teapots – and this helps with the brewing process of the tea.

Another hilarious thing I've heard is the unending debate on the order of milk and tea. And so some people prefer to pour the milk into the mug first, then serve the tea, while for others, that just seems insane. Their “correct” method is backwards: pouring the tea first, then adjusting the amount of milk.

So, how about you? In what order do you pour your milk and tea? We could talk forever about tea culture, but we'll have [to] wrap here for today!

Stay warm, and see you soon. Bye!